

Fantastic Field Day 2002

Community Involved in ACS Activity

By Linda Dockstader (K7LSK)

Seattle ACS held its 4th annual Field Day event at Magnuson Park/Sand Point on June 22nd. and 23rd. This year we had a terrific location, close to the entrance and just off the main parking lot. We had many visitors due to the location, and were visited by a Girl Scout troop! We had two stations for our use and a "Get On The Air (GOTA)" station for our visitors to use.

This year Mark (N7LYE) produced a wonderful banner, which was strung on the guy wires of the Disk Cone antenna. He also brought sandwich board signs and placed them strategically from the main entrance to our location. Thanks Mark! The Disk Cone antenna was so very visible that it drew quite a few folks to ask about it.

We had local news cover-

age from both Channel 5 KING-TV, and Channel 7 KIRO-TV. The piece Channel 5 broadcast was both lengthy and informative. Seattle ACS was noted as a group that the City counted on when emergency communications were needed.

We displayed a proclamation from Governor Gary Locke naming June as Amateur Radio month in Washington

State. We also displayed our ACS folding board, showing our participation in past emergency operations incidents.

Jim (K7BDL) reprised his role as Camp Chef this year. The jambalaya on Saturday night was even better than last year, and many enjoyed the world-famous Sunday breakfast.

This year we started Field Day on

Thursday evening with a get together at Dave Holdsworth's (KJ7PW) condominium clubhouse. Paul (NG7Z) setup and demonstrated the laptop computers and the contest logging software. All who attended used the logging equipment with much greater ease than last year.

A group of volunteers including Jim (K7BDL), Dave (WB0RAZ), and Paul (NG7Z) met on Friday to move the disk cone antenna



Photo by S. Cook KD7EEC

Girl Scouts check out radio operations

QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle
Emergency Management

ACS Net & Disaster Coordination
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

ACS Primary Message Channels
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

ACS 6 Meter Frequency
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

ACS Website
www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

State & County Nets
Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.985 MHz

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King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

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From the Editor

Taking Stock

No, don't worry. This isn't about the stock market. We've had enough bad news about that recently. Instead I want to comment about our own Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), taking stock of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.

Why now? I guess it's getting to be a tradition. With the first issue of each new volume of *QRV?* your editor takes the opportunity to take stock of the status of ACS. So here we are, the first issue of Volume 6, and now is the time for us to pause for a moment and take stock of our situation.

Looking back, we've had a very good year. Nets have gone well (thanks Bill K7NZV), Academy 2002 was a rousing success (thanks Marina N7LSL), meetings have been both informative *and* inspiring (thanks Mark, N7LYE), Field Day 2002 was outstanding (thanks Paul NG7Z), and your Newsletter, *QRV?*, completes its fifth year (thanks all you contributors and Denise). Believe me, I do realize that many more names should be added to those noted above. So thanks to *all* of you for your excellent work in making ACS the fine organization it has become.

Where are we now? We've established a leadership council to develop short and long range plans for our organization. At the moment, this council includes Mark (N7LYE), Bill D. (W7LSK), Linda D. (K7LSK), Libe (K7WCE), Marina (N7LSL), and your editor (N7BYP). Your leadership council, together with Emergency Management leadership, is currently working on plans that will significantly improve our ability to serve.

The year ahead offers new opportunities and prospects for changes. You'll hear more about these in the coming months. Working together we'll continue to improve our unique contribution to our neighbors and to our city.

From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director
Seattle Emergency Management

There are two equally important features that must characterize any emergency response and readiness program in this day and age. The ability to gather and analyze information, and the ability to communicate information dwarf all other requirements.

When I visited New York City recently (for a conference that reviewed the September 11 attack and its aftermath) the importance of maintaining these two features hit home in an unforgettable way. "Not knowing" what was happening, and still having to make critical, even fateful, decisions in times of chaos, were repeated refrains heard from those who spoke to us.

Most spoke wistfully of their largely unfulfilled need to know what was going on outside their immediate area of responsibility. If you were farther away from Ground Zero, you could intuit that the buildings were likely doomed. Actions taken by some that proved wise in retrospect were often traceable to the vantage point that they had. If one had the benefit of police helicopters, as NYPD did, one could determine that the two primary buildings had to be evacuated. But, those that had information lacked the capability to communicate, and those with communications had limited means to advise others of the danger.

I believe that the after action reports that will be published (or leaked to the New York Times) will result in improvements throughout the nation in the interoperability of communications in similar incidents. These problems surfaced after the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, with little action apparently being taken to resolve them. That won't be the case now.

In Seattle, it is possible to extract some generic lessons from the 9/11 experience. The one lesson that I will focus on in this column is that we should not take our resources and our capabilities for

See EOC, page 4

Mark's Message

By Mark Sheppard N7LYE

Field Day 2002 Multiple Missions Realized

Perhaps it was the foresight and wisdom of the founding fathers of organized ham radio who realized its need and then created Field Day so it would evolve as an essential ritual in the developing culture of amateur radio. This event signifies many things and is practiced simultaneously and harmoniously (for the most part, QRM gets a bit heavy on 20 meter SSB) by thousands of hams nationally if not internationally. My observation is that the Field Day experience of Seattle ACS probably reflects, in its participating members the broad spectrum of purposes and expectations held by the larger ham community. The really remarkable outcome is that all of these seemingly diverse expectations were simultaneously and collaboratively satisfied.

What do I mean by multiple missions? Let me offer a few examples:

1. *Opportunity to educate the public about the interests and purpose of ham radio, emphasize our emergency mission and garner support and appreciation.* Dave Holdsworth KJ7PW took the lead in contacting all the local TV stations and the result of his efforts was truly amazing. All the stations sent news crews which resulted in very nice coverage. KING 5's crew stayed at the Field Day site for over an hour and the resulting story which aired on the Saturday evening news was long and quite comprehensive. The story included interviews, demonstrations and the delightful interaction of the Girl Scout Troop with our hams. Don Porter did a nice summary talking about our emergency mission and our role in support of the City should we be struck by earthquake or other catastrophic event.

2. *Involve youth and recruit members* - Bill and Linda Dockstader (W7LSK & K7LSK) teamed up with Dave and Sandy Cook (W7DWC & KD7EEC) to contact and invite the various Scouting organizations. It is no secret that the number of hams nationwide is dwindling as is our ACS roster. We believe there are two causal factors; the ham population is getting older and few youngsters are attracted to the hobby. The outreach was quite successful a large group of girls showed up Saturday morning and spent over three hours on site learning about ham radio, its emergency communications role and actually making contacts using the GOTA station. This entire interaction was artfully scripted and orchestrated by Linda and Sandy who prepared a multifaceted program for the kids. They seemed to enjoy it and I believe that many will have fond memories of this experience. As mentioned the scouts participation was included in the KING 5 coverage.

3. *Demonstrate that we can setup and operate, around the clock, a self sufficient emergency radio communications center.* Once again Jim Hicks (K7BDL) and Dave Prince (WB0RAZ) lead the efforts to plan, erect, power, supply and take-down Field Day Station W7ACS. This, as always, is no small effort and required considerable advance time by both Dave and Jim, working logistics, looking at the site, arranging for transport and then both leading and instructing all of us in the physical work of putting it all together as well as actually doing large portion of the work themselves. This year we saw the return of a kinder-friendlier disc-cone and a 20 meter mathematically correct loop and RAZmobile in a near state of completion. Thanks to Jim with support from Sandy and Linda for the great meals, snacks and hospitality. Once again thanks Jim and Charlie Hicks for bringing the big tents and all your camping gear.

4. *Social Interaction and fellowship* - Many come to Field Day to see their friends, meet other hams, learn about ham radio, or rekindle an old interest that some how burned dimly for years but was not extinguished. There were people show-

ing up and staying and talking at all hours of the day and night. Our location this year was optimal for visibility and drop-in visits. We had an extended visit from a family visiting from Russia, a squad of Seattle Firefighters training in the parking lot adjoining our site. Several young hams for the UofW, folks who saw the antennas and wondered what we were doing... all of these people and many more walked away with an experience they will remember, their own personal piece of Field Day 2002.

5. *Field Day is a contest - It is an opportunity to test and develop our operating skills as well as implement systems for logging and record keeping.* Paul Beringer (NG7Z) was the overall Field Day chair this year as well as our official contest-master. I know that Paul would like us all to take the contesting aspect a little more seriously and especially would like to see more emphasis on CW - but Paul reported that we did considerably better than last year, more contacts more operating hours.... We were successful in this mission as well. Paul thank you for chairing the event this year, dealing with the rules and regs and setting up the logging network....

Well as I look back on it and recover from my sun burn and strained muscles I must say Field Day 2002 was a big success for so many people, in so many ways for so many reasons.... Thanks to all who participated, thanks to Seattle Public Utilities and the Seattle Office of Emergency Management for their support and a very special thanks to Eric Friedli, Director of Magnuson Sand Point Park for providing the venue for the event and Cynthia Boyce of the Park's staff who was our liaison assisting us with all the logistics and arrangements at Sand Point. You guys at Magnuson are true partners in delivering our collective City mission to the public. Thank you all for your collaboration. Sandy our official ACS digital photographer was very successful in chronicling the event she has prepared an album and there is an on-line gallery setup by Dave Prince at <http://mseweb.engr.washington.edu/gallery/> that contains these and other photos - nice job Dave...

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and Jim's tents to the site. Friday evening saw more folks show up to raise the rest of the antennas and setup details.

On Saturday a troop of Girl Scouts, all daughters of refugees from Eritrea, came to visit. It was their first outing as a troop. They were attentive and eager to learn about Amateur Radio. Dave (WB0RAZ) gave them a talk on how he and Jim (K7BDL) designed and built the Disk Cone antenna, reminding them to pay attention in math class for future Amateur Radio needs! Paul (NG7Z) then demonstrated CW to the girls. They were thrilled as he translated each of their names into CW for them. The Channel 5 news camera captured the Scouts' first radio contact, and they were featured in the broadcast that night! They left Field Day happy and excited about Amateur Radio. There were many other visitors on Saturday, several of whom stayed overnight to operate the radios around the clock.

On Sunday the contest finished up and the antennas, tents, and radios were struck and put away. We had a total of 1146 points: 746 QSO points and 800 bonus points for power, publicity, etc.

ACS is only as strong as its members

Paul (N7GZ) notes that we had over 1400 points last year. He has turned this years' point total in to the ARRL.

All in all this was a great Field Day. The only thing that could have made it better would be to have a better turn out from our members. Seattle ACS is only as strong as its members, so next year let's all get out to celebrate Field Day!

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granted. I won't take you for granted. ACS members have exhibited dedication, intelligence, and resolve. You are our best chance of avoiding a disastrous interruption in communications and information sharing. I have a list of recommended actions, most, but not all, costing money, that would strengthen ACS in the coming months and years. Times are indeed tight in the City, but I am determined to find a way to recognize your efforts, and strengthen the capabilities you represent. You can help by continuing to look for people that will add value to your organization. I'll try to get resources to support you. As we head toward the first anniversary of the darkest period in most of our lifetimes, we need to rededicate ourselves to the enhancement of the ACS team. Please stay ready, stay trained, and thank you for your willingness to support your community's disaster response.

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